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of July, about which so much fact and fable has been written, without satisfying some curious searchers as to what actually did happen. Although intimate with Haskell, no mention is made of the surprising statements given in the latter's diary published several years ago.

We are given high praise of Grant, Meade, Sheridan, Hancock, Sumner, Humphreys, and others with whom at one time or another the author had some personal or official relation under actual war conditions. McClellan comes in for criticism, showing that the writer did not concur in the popular verdict in that case—unless indeed he unconsciously adopted a later and revised estimate.

Students of the mental condition of the northern people in 1861 may find food for thought in the reference to a letter from "Sarah" asking him how many of the "dear negroes" he has freed. Interesting details of negro troops might have been of use if heeded in the World War.

EBEN SWIFT.

*William Peters Hepburn.* By JOHN ELY BRIGGS. [Iowa Biographical series, edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh.] (Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa. 1919. Pp. xv, 469. \$2.00.)

THIS volume contains a plain unadorned account of the early life and public career of an Iowa congressman who served in the House of Representatives at Washington for most of the years from 1881 to 1909. Colonel Hepburn was born in 1833 and died in 1916. He retired from public life after his defeat for Congress in 1908. Eleven chapters of Mr. Briggs's volume (98 pages) are devoted to Hepburn's early years, his services in the Civil War, and his return to civil life. More than a fourth of the whole volume (124 pages) is given up to the index and to "Notes and References", the latter containing many excerpts of interest and value. These show the author's sources—letters, newspapers, scrapbooks, congressional speeches, etc.

The rest of the volume (a little over half its pages) sets forth the congressional career of its subject, dealing, among other things, with Pork Barrel Legislation, Pensions, Currency, Civil Service Reform, Imperialism, the Isthmian Canal, Railroad Legislation, Pure Food, the Rules of the House, and the Progressive Movement. These topics indicate the importance of the subjects of state with which Colonel Hepburn had to deal during his congressional career. It was an era of agitation and fierce controversy, of change and unsettlement of the old order, from Garfield to Taft through the excitations of Roosevelt and Bryan. The volume shows that Mr. Hepburn was a conventional congressman, a routinist of the old school, not much disposed to change. Clearly he was not a pioneer in politics, nor did he show qualities of real leadership or statesmanlike grasp upon the great questions with which he was confronted. He owed his influence in legislative history largely to the official committee positions which he held, which came to him from his

long service in Congress and his standing well with the party organization of the House. Yet he was not altogether a reactionary obstructionist, largely because influences beyond his control led him toward progressive ways. It was the "back fires" in Iowa, built by men like Henry Wallace, and the "big stick" of Theodore Roosevelt in the presidential chair, that brought the name of William Peters Hepburn, chairman of the commerce committees, into prominent connection with legislation touching pure food, railroad regulation, and kindred subjects. It is fair to say that he gave these causes official and conventional support, but the leadership came from the push behind. Roosevelt testified to his great services, but Roosevelt well knew how "great services" for good causes were obtained from congressmen of the "stand pat" variety, such as Hepburn was.

Mr. Briggs's volume reveals to us the mind and work of an old-time G. A. R. Republican congressman, who believed in "the glorious record of the Republican party"; that money panics "were due to Democratic tariff tinkering"; that money had "intrinsic value" and that "sound money", bimetallism, and the "existing gold standard" should all be maintained together; that garden seeds and government literature should be liberally distributed among his constituents; that railroads were private property, despite the grange decisions; that obtaining pensions for old soldiers and offices for applicants was the chief function of a congressman; that his district should not fail to obtain its share of the congressional "pork" in the shape of public buildings; that the old way of making appointments—rewarding men for party work by public offices—was better than the new-fangled civil service reform, and that the "hordes of hungry office-seekers infesting the corridors of the Capitol" were worthy of defense, because those were the very men congressmen had to rely on in their quest for delegates. Such, as Mr. Briggs shows, was a large part of the mind and life of Hepburn as a congressman. It was dreary enough. The wonder is that a man like Hepburn, the victim of a system, could yet be used as the instrument of so much good work in legislation. Mr. Briggs says that Hepburn's work upon the transportation problem "constituted his principal achievement and earned for him enduring fame". Perhaps so. But one wonders where Henry Wallace comes in, a real Iowa statesman and a man of intelligence and vision, who, as an editor of a journal for Iowa farmers, instructed Hepburn on the transportation problem, and prodded him to the undertaking of his task. It was men like Wallace working with Dolliver and Roosevelt, in ways satisfactory to Iowa farmers and shippers, that did the real work. Men like Hepburn were but the pipe-lines through which flowed streams of legislation, originated by other men and pressed to issue by the force of public opinion. The name and fame may go to the Hepburns, the official "authors" of the bills, but the real merit and achievement belong to others. Such are the lives of many of our prominent congressmen who are soon to be forgotten. Mr. Briggs clearly brings

this out, with or without intention, in this life of William Peters Hepburn.

JAMES A. WOODBURN.

*Our War with Germany: a History.* By JOHN SPENCER BASSETT, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of American History, Smith College. (New York: A. A. Knopf. 1919. Pp. 386. \$4.00.)

IT is reassuring in these days of innumerable investigations and congressional committees to read a book that believes that the war was won and that the United States played a considerable and creditable part in the final triumph over the Central Powers. It is the story of our participation that Professor Bassett has here told very clearly and convincingly. The presentation of things achieved is modest—as properly so as were General Pershing's words in asking a place for American troops in the line of battle against the German onslaught. Taken all together the account of Professor Bassett is the clearest and best that has yet attempted in one volume the story of our part in the World War.

A little more than one-fourth of the book sketches the period before our entrance into the struggle. Another hundred pages or more tell the story of our organization, policies, and preparation as a nation fully conscious of the tremendous scale on which all things must be done. The last one-third of the book is an account of the land and naval operations that closed the war with American troops and ships in line of battle, and of the peace negotiations at Paris. In the preparations and in the conduct of the war and in the conclusion of the peace Professor Bassett holds that "the nation met the test with credit and in some respects with brilliant success".

In writing his book the author has made careful use of public documents and prints and has been able to fill out some points by reason of his residence in Washington during war-time and the personal information he gathered from those in places of responsibility. New sources will modify parts of the work, but the main outlines will stand much as this historian has dispassionately presented them. Minor errors there are both of commission and of omission: Barthelme did not leave with Bernstorff; Lansing is credited with the notes he signed but never wrote; not all the pro-German press was in the East by any means; the President's part in tabling the McLemore resolutions is unmentioned; the trip of the *Deutschland* which had a startling effect quite other than Germany intended is not mentioned; the President's note of December 18, 1916, is not distinctly brought out nor is the fact that the address of January 22, 1917, was not his first utterance on a League of Nations. Labor's resolutions of March 12 on the eve of the war are a ringing pronouncement that no historian of America's part in the war should pass over as all have so far done. The bold telegram of President Wilson to the threats of Jeremiah J. O'Leary in the midst of the campaign